

CENTENNIAL CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION BY THE CITY OF CENTENNIAL

SUMMER 2020

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR STEPHANIE PIKO



Centennial Civic Center
13133 E. Arapahoe Rd.
Centennial, CO 80112



Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
(excluding holidays)



24/7 Citizen
Response Center
303.325.8000



www.centennialco.gov



Facebook.com/CentennialGov
Twitter: @CentennialGov
Instagram: @CentennialGov

COVID-19
UPDATES 2

CENTENNIAL
CENTER PARK 3

PUBLIC SAFETY &
HEALTH RESOURCES 4

HIGH LINE CANAL
UPDATES 5

WHO IS
SEMSWA? 7

THINK LOCAL
CENTENNIAL 8



Back in February, City Council began our annual strategic planning process. Our focus this year was on City identity, the future of retail in shopping centers, the approaching 20th anniversary of Centennial, transportation and mobility, and ensuring long-term fiscal sustainability of the City. We were setting the foundation for the years ahead with your input at the forefront of our minds. But, as we now know, life around the world quickly changed. Like all other businesses, families, and organizations, we have had to adapt.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, services at the City continued; they just looked a little different. We developed and implemented remote home inspections, online business workspaces, and virtual City Council meetings. We worked closely with Tri-County Health and Arapahoe County to keep you informed—through virtual town hall discussions, e-newsletters, and web updates.

This time allowed us to get creative about how we connect with you. We launched #WeAreOneCentennial and #ThinkLocalCentennial to hear your stories, learn through shared experiences, and better support the local businesses and restaurants serving our community. We were inspired to read the many incredible stories about neighbors stepping up to help one another, children drawing messages of encouragement on sidewalks with chalk, and restaurants delivering meals to those in need.

And while our lives have since changed, our commitment to you has stayed constant. We recognize that the challenges are not yet over. As we continue through this time of transition, we are committed to self-reflection and continuous improvement. Your needs and values, whether they change or stay the same during this time, are just as important to us now as they were before. And while we recognize that life may look different physically apart, we are in this together. We are with you and we are listening.

Level 2: Safer at Home

Per the Governor's Orders, we are under **Level 2: Safer-at-Home**. This means that Coloradans are no longer ordered to stay home, but are strongly advised to stay at home. Critical businesses are open and non-critical businesses are operating with restrictions.

We recommend you continue to take the following actions to protect yourself, your family and others in the community:

- Wear a cloth face covering when in public.
- Stay at least six feet away from others if you must go out.
- Cough or sneeze into your sleeve, or if you use a tissue then discard the tissue and promptly wash your hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home while you are sick and avoid close contact with others.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if hands are not visibly soiled.



There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. For more information on **Level 2: Safer-at-Home** and the latest State guidelines, visit the following sites:

- tchd.org/coronavirus
- covid19/Colorado.gov/safer-at-home
- centennialco.gov/saferathome

Limited Access to the Centennial Civic Center by Appointment Only

The City is allowing limited public entry into the Centennial Civic Center **by appointment only**. The public is encouraged to continue using the online services that have been in place given the Governor's **Level 2: Safer-at-Home** order remains in effect.

Appointment availability varies by department. Please verify the days and times available for the City service you require:

- **Building Services:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- **Sales Tax:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- **Community Development:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- **Municipal Court:** Monday 8 a.m. – Noon and Tuesday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- **Mayor Piko** is available for in-person, or virtual, appointments for Meet the Mayor meetings Tuesday mornings from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

All of these services will continue to be available virtually and visitors are encouraged to remain Safer-at-Home. However if it is necessary to visit the Centennial Civic Center public occupancy will be limited in each area of the building.

Guidelines are in place for the public to safely enter the City building. Visitors are required to wear a face covering and complete a symptom screening upon entering the building. For limited in-person appointments, schedule online by visiting centennialco.gov/covid19.

Public Meetings Update

Public Comment remains available during Virtual Regular City Council Meetings and any Virtual Public Hearings.

Visit the Agendas & Minutes page to view upcoming meetings and learn more about the public comment process: centennialco.gov/listentomeetings.

City Addressing Budget Challenges During COVID-19 Pandemic

In response to the economic impacts due to COVID-19, the City of Centennial has identified several areas where spending will be reduced.

Sales tax revenues comprises 47 percent of the City's total budgeted revenues and because of the temporary closure of businesses related to the pandemic, the City is estimating a significant revenue loss, although the exact impact has yet to be determined.

The City has implemented a hiring freeze and has deferred numerous capital projects to 2021.

Centennial's contract model of government and strategic budgeting and investment practices have allowed the City to avoid making major service cuts, as well as absorb projected revenue shortfalls for the short term.

Centennial City Manager Matt Sturgeon credits City leaders past and present for their commitment to conservative spending practices, which has placed the City in a manageable financial position despite revenue loss from the coronavirus.

The City's focus remains on the health and well-being of our community. Essential services, such as law enforcement, road repair and signal light maintenance, will continue to be provided. There are no anticipated changes to the level of service the community has been receiving. We ask residents, as they are out and about traveling the street network or walking on the sidewalks, to continue to report concerns such as pot holes, dangerous sidewalk conditions and other maintenance issues to the City's 24-hour Citizen Response Center (303-325-8000) or online at centennialco.gov/reportaproblem.

Centennial Center Park Remains Closed

The City has been closely monitoring the recommendations of the State to better understand all of the guidelines for personal recreation spaces. State guidelines, for example, require playgrounds to be opened to only twenty-five people at a time and individuals must stay at least six feet apart. The City determined that we are unable to adequately follow all of the guidelines mandated by the State. In order to better protect the health and safety of the community and our staff, the difficult decision has been made to keep Centennial Center Park closed. View the State's personal recreation guidelines at covid19.colorado.gov/safer-at-home/recreation.



Public Safety & Health Resources



The City adopted a value statement in 2018, to show the importance of Centennial being an inclusive and supportive community.

“In Centennial, we value kindness, integrity and diversity in order to build a strong, unified and inclusive community in which all citizens feel welcome and safe. In Centennial, we value protecting the community’s physical and emotional wellbeing. The City of Centennial is committed to upholding, demonstrating and living these values and takes pride in this statement.”

This statement is a reflection of the values Centennial wishes to maintain in our community. Working together to preserve mental and physical health is critical during challenging times. The safety and health of our community is strengthened by the mental and physical wellbeing of all our residents.

Visit centennialco.gov/resources to view a list of public health and safety resources available to the community.

Wheels & Reels

Thank you to those who attended the City’s first Wheels & Reels summer movie series at The Streets at SouthGlenn June 18 and 25!

Attendees enjoyed the movies *Sonic the Hedgehog* and *A Dog’s Journey* from the safety and comfort of

their vehicles. We hope to continue Wheels & Reels throughout the summer. Follow us on social media @CentennialGov or visit centennialco.gov/events to learn when new events are scheduled.



Let's talk
CENTENNIAL

with
Mayor Stephanie Piko

Mayor Piko has office hours every Tuesday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Centennial Civic Center by appointment only, and is available virtually or in person. To schedule, visit centennialco.gov/covid19.

 Centennial

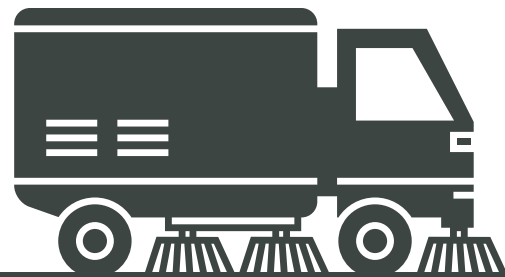
CONGRATULATIONS
2020
GRADUATES!



#WeAreOneCentennial



#WeAreOneCentennial is intended to help keep our spirits up and encourage the health and wellness of our community during this time of uncertainty. Check out the list of ideas for fun things to do, educational resources and more. Share your ideas and what you've been up to in Centennial on social media @CentennialGov and including the tag **#WeAreOneCentennial**. Visit centennialco.gov/weareonecentennial to learn more.



Summer street sweeping is scheduled from July through August and the fall program is scheduled for mid-September through the end of November. The sweeping schedules are dependent upon the weather and may change to adjust for weather delays.

Visit centennialco.gov/streetsweeping for the sweeping schedule, or get notifications by subscribing at centennialco.gov/notifyme and on the private neighborhood social network, nextdoor.com.

#ChalkYourWalk

A great thing happened in our neighborhoods during the Stay-At-Home order issued throughout March and April: people responded in heartwarming and artistic ways by crafting messages in sidewalk chalk for first responders, neighbors and friends.

Thank you to all who contributed photos of chalk art- along with great ideas to stay busy and engaged during this difficult time. These are just a couple of the chalk masterpieces that citizens submitted during March and April. Additional photos can be viewed at centennialco.gov/weareonecentennial, and keep them coming!



High Line Canal Conservancy Continues to Work on Trail Improvements

The High Line Canal Conservancy keeps momentum up to preserve, protect and enhance the Canal. Over the last two months, the Canal has proven to be essential to the community during this pandemic, immeasurably supporting our health and well-being. Because of this, the High Line Canal Conservancy staff is working harder than ever to enhance the Canal for all communities and to protect the treasured greenway for years to come.

Canal projects you'll see moving forward this summer include:

- Signage, including new mile markers
- Stormwater transformation in four locations
- Safer crossings and access, including underpasses at Hampden Ave. and Colorado Blvd.
- Connected open space, including Long's Pine Grove Open Space
- New trail connections, including I-70 to Green Valley Ranch
- Neighborhood trail enhancements, including improvements in Aurora with support from the Colorado Health Foundation

For up-to-date trail and project information, visit highlinecanal.org/trail-updates.

In addition to these important on-the-ground improvements, a top priority for the Conservancy is caring for the Canal to protect the environmental health and improve community wellbeing. Some ways you can be there for the Canal this summer:

1. Walk FOR the Canal

Join the High Line Canal Conservancy's walking fundraiser challenge to support your 71-mile High Line Canal. Set a distance-based goal and walk, run, ride, skip or scoot (or however you choose) over 71 days from August 1 – October 10. Get pledges for your miles and get moving outdoors! Visit highlinecanal.org/walk for more details.

2. Care FOR the Canal

Help the Conservancy hit their goal of 71 cleanups this year! In addition to scheduled community cleanups (adapted for social distancing), the Conservancy is launching Caring for the Canal: Independent Cleanups starting in June. For a schedule of cleanups and more information, visit highlinecanal.org/cleanups.



The Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority (SEMSWA) is your resource for flood risk information

What information can SEMSWA provide for you?

- Information from the FEMA flood risk maps and the National Flood Insurance Program.
- Information on flood risk areas or local drainage problems not shown on the FEMA flood risk map.
- A map of the flood hazard area in relation to your property.
- Evaluation and comment on the flood risk status of your property or structure.
- Assistance with requests to revise or amend FEMA flood risk maps.
- Information about the mandatory flood insurance purchase requirement for properties in the FEMA high-risk flood hazard area.
- Review of Elevation Certificates.
- Permit requirements for development in the flood hazard areas.



For more information call SEMSWA at 303-858-8844, or visit semswa.org

Centennial Transformed Building Inspections to Better Serve the Community

In early March, before the Stay-at-Home Order was implemented, the City and its building services contractor, SAFEbuilt took the initiative to leverage technology as a means of conducting remote building inspections.

Conducting building inspections was considered an essential service during the Stay-at-Home orders. Doing interior home inspections online minimized exposure between City employees and the public, adhering to the direction of public health officials about social distancing. The process utilized Skype and Facetime to complete remote video inspections. Since the program began in March, the Centennial Building Department has successfully completed more than 375 remote inspections. This represents about 28% of all residential inspections.

The City of Centennial has always focused on maintaining lean, efficient and effective government through smart contracting and public-private partnerships. Through the innovative use of existing technology, Centennial and its partner, SAFEbuilt, adopted new processes enabling the City to meet the changing needs of our community. As a result, as

closures and restrictions are lifted, the City will not have a backlog of inspections.

Learn more about remote inspections on the City's website at centennialco.gov/eta.





City of Centennial Newsletter
13133 E. Arapahoe Road
Centennial, Colorado 80112

Due to the rapidly changing climate surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, information, including closings and appointment availability may have changed since this newsletter was distributed.

Please visit **centennial.gov** for the latest information.

#THINKLOCALCENTENNIAL

- 1. Visit a local Centennial restaurant or business.**
- 2. Snap a selfie showing how you shop local.**
- 3. Share on social media using the hashtag #ThinkLocalCentennial**
- 4. Be entered to win a \$50 gift card to a local Centennial restaurant!**

Centennialco.gov/ThinkLocalCentennial

Think Local Centennial

Local businesses are owned and operated by your neighbors. Show you care about the well-being of your community by purchasing from local Centennial businesses. If you visit a local business, share a selfie on social media and you could receive a \$50 gift card!

To participate in the **#ThinkLocalCentennial** contest, post a selfie on social media (@CentennialGov) with the item purchased from a Centennial business or in front of a Centennial business and use the tag **#ThinkLocalCentennial**.

Anyone is eligible to participate. However, the social media account must have at least one post prior to May 10, 2020 and the photo must be public and posted on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter with **#ThinkLocalCentennial**. If possible, be sure to tag the Centennial business also!

By participating in this contest, the City is allowed to use the photo posted with the **#ThinkLocalCentennial** in any City related media or publication without limitation.

Visit **centennialco.gov/ThinkLocalcentennial** for more information about this contest. Follow Centennial on social media @CentennialGov.